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# CDC Health Advisory

Distributed via Health Alert Network

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## **Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality and the Increase of *Staphylococcus aureus* co-infection**

CDC is requesting that states report all cases of influenza-related pediatric mortality from the 2006-2007 influenza season.

Since 2004, the Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality Surveillance System, part of the Nationally Notifiable Disease Surveillance System, has collected information on deaths among children due to laboratory-confirmed influenza, including the presence of other medical conditions and bacterial infections at the time of death. From October 1, 2006 through May 7, 2007, 55 deaths from influenza in children have been reported to CDC from 23 state health departments and two city health departments. Data on bacterial co-infections were reported for 51 cases; 20 (39%) had a bacterial co-infection, and 16/20 were infected with *Staphylococcus aureus*. While the number of pediatric influenza associated deaths is similar to that reported during the two previous years, there has been an increase in the number of deaths in which both influenza and pneumonia or bacteremia due to *S. aureus* were identified. Only one influenza and *S. aureus* co-infection was identified in 2004-2005, and 3 were identified in 2005-2006. Of the 16 children reported with *S. aureus* so far in 2006-2007, 11 children had methicillin-resistant (MRSA) isolated from a sterile site (9) or sputum (2), and 5 had methicillin-susceptible *S. aureus* isolated from a sterile site (3) or sputum (2). The median age of children with *S. aureus* co-infection was older than children without *S. aureus* co-infection (11 years versus 4 years,  $p < .01$ ). Children with influenza and *S. aureus* co-infections were reported to be in good health before illness onset but progressed rapidly to severe illness. Influenza strains isolated from these children have not been different from common strains circulating in the community and the MRSA strains have been typical of those associated with MRSA skin infection outbreaks in the United States.

Healthcare providers should be alerted to the possibility of bacterial co-infection among children with influenza, and request bacterial cultures when bacterial co-infection is suspected. Clinicians, clinical agencies and medical examiners are asked to contact their local or state health department as soon as possible when deaths among children due to laboratory-confirmed influenza are identified. CDC requests that all cases of pediatric influenza-associated deaths be reported promptly by state health departments to CDC through <http://sdn.cdc.gov> and that information about bacterial pathogens isolated from sterile sites and/or from sputum or endotracheal aspirates be completed on the Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality Surveillance System case report form. If the influenza death was complicated by *S. aureus* infection, please contact the clinical agency to determine if the *S. aureus* isolate is available. CDC is interested in receiving *S. aureus* isolates to better characterize those from fatal cases of influenza in children.

### **DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements**

Reporting of pediatric influenza-associated deaths to SCDHEC is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at: [http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable\\_conditions.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf)

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

## Regional Public Health Offices – 2006-2007

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

### Region 1

#### **Anderson, Oconee**

220 McGee Road  
Anderson, SC 29625  
Phone: (864) 260-4358  
Fax: (864) 260-5623  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

#### **Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda**

1736 S. Main Street  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
Phone: 1-888-218-5475  
Fax: (864) 942-3690  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

### Region 2

#### **Greenville, Pickens**

PO Box 2507  
200 University Ridge  
Greenville, SC 29602-2507  
Phone: (864) 282-4139  
Fax: (864) 282-4373  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

#### **Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union**

PO Box 4217  
151 E. Wood Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217  
Phone: (864) 596-2227, x- 210  
Fax: (864) 596-3443  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

### Region 3

#### **Chester, Lancaster, York**

PO Box 817  
1833 Pageland Highway  
Lancaster, SC 29721  
Phone: (803) 286-9948  
Fax: (803) 286-5418  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

### Region 3 (continued)

#### **Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland**

2000 Hampton Street  
Columbia, SC 29204  
Phone: (803) 576-2749  
Fax: (803) 576-2993  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

### Region 4

#### **Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter**

PO Box 1628  
105 North Magnolia Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Phone: (803) 773-5511  
Fax: (803) 775-9941  
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

#### **Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion**

145 E. Cheves Street  
Florence, SC 29506  
Phone: (843) 661-4830  
Fax: (843) 661-4859  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

### Region 5

#### **Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg**

PO Box 1126  
1550 Carolina Avenue  
Orangeburg, SC 29116  
Phone: (803) 533-7199  
Fax: (803) 533-7134  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

#### **Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell**

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 642-1618  
Fax: (803) 643-8386  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or  
1-800-614-1519

### Region 6

Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg  
2830 Oak Street  
Conway, SC 29526-4560  
Phone: (843) 365-3126, x-138 or x-174  
Fax: (843) 365-3153  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

### Region 7

#### **Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester**

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600  
N. Charleston, SC 29405  
Phone: (843) 746-3806  
Fax: (843) 746-3851  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

### Region 8

#### **Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper**

219 S. Lemacks Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: (843) 549-1516, x-214  
Fax: (843) 549-6845  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

### DHEC Bureau of Disease Control Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street  
Box 101106  
Columbia, SC 29211  
Phone: (803) 898-0861  
Fax: (803) 898-0897  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



[www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

### Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.